

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORTS

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

*and the*

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1950

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# PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1950

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## *Medical Officer of Health:*

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

(Also Divisional M.O.H. for North Herts.)

## *Senior Sanitary Inspector:*

NORMAN HOLT, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., Cert. R.San.Inst.

(Meat and Foods)

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## *Additional Sanitary Inspector:*

WILLIAM MILEHAM MATHEWS, M.S.I.A., A.R. San.I.,

Cert. R San.Inst. (Meat and Foods)

## *Clerical Staff:*

FRANCIS SYDNEY BAILEY.

FREDERICK VALENTINE.

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## *Offices:*

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Divisional Health Office, 12, Brand Street, Hitchin. Tel. 107.

### SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:

Council Offices, Brand Street, Hitchin.

Tel. 1070.

# HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1950

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Council.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the above report on the directions of Ministry of Health Circular 112/50.

The general health of the town is shown by the vital statistics to continue favourable and the low infant mortality rate for the year is a local record. An age distribution above the national average explains the continued somewhat higher local death rate, application of the comparability factor (0.94) supplied by the Registrar General giving a Standardised Death Rate of 11.4.

Housing continues to be the main public health problem of Hitchin, complicated by the smaller size of the average family unit and the difficulty of securing reasonable repairs to obsolescent properties.

I would acknowledge having received during the year every assistance from your Council and its chief officers, particularly from Mr. N. Holt, your Senior Sanitary Inspector, who is responsible for the attached sanitary report.

Your obedient servant,

V. R. WALKER,

*District Medical Officer of Health.*

July, 1951.

SECTION A.

LOCAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) .. .. .	3,850
Home population—Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1950 .. .. .	20,040
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1951 ..	5,720
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1951 .. ..	£145,175
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate for 1951/52 ..	£578

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR  
THE YEAR 1950

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Totals	M	F	HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rates for England and Wales
Legitimate ..	286	155	131		
Illegitimate ..	15	7	8		
All .. ..	<u>301</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>139</u>		

Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population .....	15.0	15.8
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STILL BIRTHS:

Legitimate ..	5	2	3
Illegitimate ..	2	-	2
All .. ..	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) .. ..	23	23
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<u>DEATHS</u> .. ..	243	130	113
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Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. ..	12.1	11.6
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DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER  
ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All infants per 1000 live births	13	30
Actual number of deaths (a) under and (b) totals under		
4 weeks		1 year
Legitimate	3	4
Illegitimate	—	—
All	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

Deaths from Puerperal cases	..	..	..	..	—
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	..	..	..	..	38
Deaths from Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	—
Deaths from Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	—
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases	..				1

#### COMMENT ON LOCAL VITAL STATISTICS

The estimate by the Registrar-General of "home" population for the mid-year shows an increase of 160 over the figure for the "civilian" population at the previous mid-year.

Relative to the figures for England and Wales the local birth rate continues somewhat lower and the local death rate somewhat higher. In this connection the Registrar-General assesses the local age distribution as above the national average with a comparability factor of 0.94.

Six deaths are recorded from tuberculosis (against 7 in 1949) and one death from all other infective diseases.

#### SECTION B.

##### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These are unchanged.

#### SECTIONS C - E.

##### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, HOUSING AND INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

#### SECTION F.

##### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year the totals of locally notified infectious diseases (after correction) were as follows:—Measles 358, Scarlet fever 20, Acute pneumonia 11, Whooping cough 7, Erysipelas 3, Food poisoning 5 and Acute poliomyelitis 2.

Measles was epidemic in the late Spring and early Summer.

Scarlet fever continued very mild in type and in incidence almost confined to the younger school child, the quarterly figures of notified cases being 3, 3, 5 and 9.

Acute poliomyelitis was confined to the fourth quarter, both young children notified having on recent follow-up been found to have made complete recovery.

Food poisoning was confined to one outbreak — the vehicle being pressed pork—originating in premises within the urban district and causing notified cases over adjacent sanitary districts (See Section "E").

Diphtheria has for one further year been completely absent from the district. Despite such continued absence the offer of protection to infants by immunisation continues to be accepted by a large majority of parents.

## TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1950.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— I ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I— 5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45 ...	1	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—55 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
and over	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	6	13	—	—	4	2	—	—

The number of new notifications was in respect of respiratory tuberculosis identical with that for 1949 but for non-respiratory forms shows a reduction from 4 to nil.

Total deaths for the year (6) were one fewer than the finally allocated figure (7) for the previous year.

VICTOR R. WALKER,  
*District Medical Officer of Health.*

July, 1951.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1950.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my ninth Annual Report upon the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending December 31st, 1950.

During the year numerous sanitary improvements were carried out by informal action and by occasional recourse to statutory action under the Public Health Act, 1936. Unfortunately major repairs to houses, in accordance with the Housing Act, 1936, are practically at a standstill because of soaring repair costs and the low, fixed rent yield of houses, due to control. The majority of premises in need of full repairs are placed in the category "not repairable at reasonable expense", and therefore the repairs Section of the Housing Act, 1936, becomes almost a dead letter. A continuation of the present position can only mean that houses throughout the country will fall into the "unfit" category as quick as it is possible to erect new houses, thus leaving a national housing problem for many years to come.

Food inspection again engaged the Sanitary Inspectors for a considerable period of time, the work of meat inspection at the Bacon Factory requiring the services of one Sanitary Inspector for five afternoons per week throughout the year. In July, 1950, the Council made Byelaws with respect to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air and it is hoped by a tactful and gradual application of these byelaws to secure a cleaner handling of food generally.

Approximately 280 tons of wastepaper were collected, baled and sold by the department during the financial year 1950-51. A keener response by the public to save all wastepaper and keep it out of the dustbin could improve the above figures, with a consequent reduction of refuse collection costs on the rates and the provision of more raw materials to meet the urgent demands of the board mills.

I have again to express my thanks to Mr. W. M. Mathews, Additional Sanitary Inspector, for his conscientious and valuable assistance, and to all the Council's officials for their continued co-operation.

I am, Your obedient servant,

(Signed) N. HOLT, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,

July 1951.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*



SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS AND  
NOTICES SERVED DURING  
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1950.

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION.

*General Sanitation—*

Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	458
Stables and Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Refuse and Salvage Collection	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Refuse Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	114
Rats and Mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,013
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
Petroleum Installations	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Employment Agencies	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	151

*Housing: Under Public Health Acts—*

Number of Houses Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	495
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	1,839

*Under Housing Acts—*

Number of Houses Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	1
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	15

*Overcrowding—*

Number of Houses Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	18
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	22

*Verminous Premises—*

Number of Houses Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	18
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	26

*Infectious Diseases—*

Inquiries in Cases of I.D.	..	..	..	..	..	39
Visits re Disinfection	..	..	..	..	..	19
Miscellaneous I.D. Visits	..	..	..	..	..	29

### *Food Poisoning—*

Inquiries in cases of Food Poisoning	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous Food Poisoning Visits	..	..	..	11

### *Meat and Food Inspection: Inspection of Meat—*

Visits to Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	327
Visits to Shops and Stalls	..	..	..	..	24
Visits to Butchers	..	..	..	..	34

### *Visits to—*

Fishmongers and Poulterers	..	..	..	..	18
Grocers	..	..	..	..	104
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	..	..	..	..	1
Dairies and Milkshops	..	..	..	..	123
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	275
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	..	89
Market Stalls	..	..	..	..	7
Restaurants	..	..	..	..	21
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	148
Miscellaneous Food Visits	..	..	..	..	23

### *Visits in connection with Sampling—*

Milk—Bacteriological	..	..	..	..	85
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### *Notices Served—*

Number of Informal Notices Served	..	..	..	395
Number of Informal Notices Complied with	..	..	..	394
Number of Statutory Notices Served	..	..	..	45
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with	..	..	..	46

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

### *Houses, etc.—*

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	59
Chimney Stacks pointed or repaired	..	..	..	..	13
Chimney pots provided	..	..	..	..	2
Flashings repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	1
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	38
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	31
Fascia Boards repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	1
Walls pointed or repaired	..	..	..	..	34
Windows repaired	..	..	..	..	36
Windows replaced	..	..	..	..	1
New window sashcords provided	..	..	..	..	41
New window fasteners provided	..	..	..	..	8
Windows made to open	..	..	..	..	1
Doors repaired (external)	..	..	..	..	5

Doors replaced (external) .. .. .	2
Doors repaired (internal) .. .. .	5
Door steps provided or repaired .. .. .	6
New yard surfaces provided .. .. .	1
Yard surfaces relaid or repaired .. .. .	2
Ceilings where plaster etc repaired or replaced .. .. .	17
Rooms where wallplaster etc. repaired or replaced .. .. .	12
Ceilings cleansed .. .. .	12
Rooms where walls cleansed .. .. .	13
Floors relaid or repaired .. .. .	13
Firegrates repaired .. .. .	1
Ranges repaired .. .. .	2
New ranges provided .. .. .	3
Chimney Flues repaired .. .. .	5
Staircases repaired .. .. .	2
Rooms where dampness remedied .. .. .	6
New sinks provided .. .. .	28
Trapped sink waste pipes provided .. .. .	35
Sink waste pipes repaired .. .. .	2
New washbasins provided .. .. .	34
Trapped washbasin waste pipes provided .. .. .	32
New baths provided .. .. .	15
Trapped bath waste pipes provided .. .. .	18
New washing boilers provided .. .. .	2
Washing boilers repaired .. .. .	2
Washing boiler flues repaired .. .. .	1
Hot water systems provided .. .. .	7
Houses where water service pipes repaired .. .. .	6
Houses where water supply provided inside the house .. .. .	20
Threshboards provided .. .. .	6
Weatherboards provided .. .. .	6
Valley gutters repaired .. .. .	4
Rainwater tanks provided .. .. .	2
Outbuildings demolished .. .. .	1

#### *Drainage—*

New drains constructed .. .. .	52
Old drains reconstructed .. .. .	12
Drains repaired .. .. .	4
Drains disconnected from sewer .. .. .	1
Drains ventilated .. .. .	1
Drains cleansed .. .. .	56
Inspection chambers provided .. .. .	37
Inspection chambers repaired .. .. .	9
Inspection chamber covers provided .. .. .	33

Self-cleansing gullies provided .. .. .	51
Soil pipes provided or repaired .. .. .	13
Vent pipes provided or repaired .. .. .	9
Septic tanks repaired .. .. .	1
Anti-syphonage systems provided .. .. .	1
Fresh air inlets renewed .. .. .	3
Intercepting traps provided .. .. .	1
Intercepting traps with anti-flood device provided ..	1

#### *Waterclosets—*

Roofs repaired .. .. .	1
New basins fixed .. .. .	45
W.C.'s where connections repaired .. .. .	3
Cisterns repaired or renewed .. .. .	36
New flush pipes fixed .. .. .	1
Door fittings repaired or renewed .. .. .	1
W.C. seats repaired or replaced .. .. .	24
Floors repaired .. .. .	2
W.C.'s where lighting improved .. .. .	3
New W.C. structures provided .. .. .	5

#### *Premises used for the Preparation, etc. of Food—*

Counters where woodwork repaired .. .. .	1
Rooms where walls repaired and decorated .. ..	19
Rooms where ceilings repaired and decorated .. ..	19
Rooms where woodwork repaired and decorated .. ..	15
Rooms where lighting improved .. .. .	4
Rooms where ventilation improved .. .. .	3
Premises where intervening ventilated spaces provided..	3
Washbasins provided with hot and cold water supply over	22
Sinks provided with hot and cold water supply over ..	5
Rooms where floors repaired .. .. .	2
Urinals provided .. .. .	2

#### *Factories—*

Cleansed, limewashed, etc. .. .. .	4
Insufficient sanitary accommodation remedied .. ..	3
Defective sanitary accommodation remedied .. ..	1
Abstract not affixed remedied .. .. .	1

#### *Shops—*

Insufficient sanitary accommodation remedied .. ..	1
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#### *Miscellaneous—*

New dustbins provided .. .. .	290
Accumulations of refuse removed .. .. .	5

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1 (i) *Water.*

With the exception of a few outlying houses, which have satisfactory private supplies, Hitchin obtains its water from a piped supply owned by the Council. I am indebted to Mr. S. Davey, Water Engineer, for the following information:

Water is obtained from three wells, Well Head and Temple End situated at the village of Charlton, and Oughton Head situated on the boundary of Pirton. At the present time the safe yield from these wells gives a substantial margin over the requirement and no restrictions have been necessary. Expansion for the next few years can easily be coped with. The subsoil of the district is mainly chalk.

The Council supply water in bulk to the Hitchin Rural District Council for the areas of Ickleford, Cadwell, Pirton and Holwell.

The highest standard of purity has been maintained throughout the year. The Council's analysts take three samples every fortnight and full chemical and physical samples every quarter. Slight contamination has occurred in the raw water from Well Head following extraordinary heavy rains but it has been effectively dealt with by the chlorination plant before being pumped into supply.

The water from Well Head and Temple End is chlorinated at the pumping station at Queen Street and after a minimum of six hours contact is de-chlorinated before being pumped into supply. The water from Oughton Head well is chlorinated at the pump suction and after a contact time of ten minutes a residual of .2 p.p.m. is maintained.

The water being hard no trouble is experienced from plumbo-solvency.

The number of dwelling houses with a supply of water is 5,552 serving approximately 20,040 persons.

The number of dwelling houses supplied by standpipe is estimated at 80 serving approximately 300 persons.

#### (ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The only extensions to the sewers were on the Council's housing estate at Purwell and at Millard Way.

## 2. Rivers and Streams.

No action taken.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation.*

With the exception of the main village of Charlton, comprising 34 houses, and a few outlying premises, the whole of the district is served by water-closets, which excluding one or two houses which discharge into cesspools, are connected to the Council's sewers. Charlton is in the main provided with pail closets or connected to cesspools.

A scheme has been prepared by the Council for the sewer-  
ing of Charlton and it is hoped to commence the work in  
July, 1951.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*

### *Refuse Collection and Disposal*

The following table shows the estimated cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal during the financial year, 1950/51:

Number of loads collected	..	..	..	2,570
Estimated weight	..	..	..	4,365 tons
Cost of collection	..	..	..	£5,103
Cost per ton	..	..	..	£1 3s. 5d.
Cost of disposal	..	..	..	£1,155
Cost per ton	..	..	..	5s 3d.
Cost of collection and disposal	..	..	..	£6,258
Cost per ton of collection and disposal	..	..	..	£1 8s. 8d.

## Salvage

The following table shows the materials salvaged during the financial year and the receipts therefrom:—

			<i>tons.</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	£	s.	d.
Wastepaper	..	..	279	6	I	6	2,244	16	6
Metals—									
Brass	..	..		I	—	I	2	7	I
Copper	..	..			3	26	4	7	I
Rolled Aluminium	..	..		I	3	5	3	9	6
Rags, etc.	..	..	3	16	2	6	161	6	9
Sacking	..	..	3	5	2	24	46	17	8
Kitchen Waste	..	..	33	12	I	—	92	8	8
Condemned Foodstuffs	..	..		15	I	—	2	13	5
TOTAL	..	..	320	19	3	12	£2,558	6	8



(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.* See pages 7, 8, 9, 10.

(iv) *Shops and Offices.*

No action was taken during the year.

(v) *Camping Sites.*

Nil.

(vi) *Smoke Abatement.*

Smoke observations were made of various factory chimneys during the year, and advisory visits made to the respective boiler plants.

(vii) *Swimming Baths.*

There is a public open air swimming bath provided by the Council, comprising a main pool and a children's pool. 64 samples of the water in the pools were taken, 32 being submitted to a bacteriological examination and 32 to a residual chlorine test. One sample taken from the children's pool and submitted to a bacteriological examination was the only sample reported upon as unsatisfactory. The remainder were all satisfactory.

(viii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

(a) Council Houses found to be infested .. .. 5

(b) Other Houses found to be infested .. .. 6

All the infested houses were disinfested. Where it is possible for the occupants to vacate the infested premises for twenty-four hours a gassing method of disinfestation is used, the rooms being sealed and put under gas by means of "Thermatox" fumigators. After unsealing, the rooms, beds, and mattresses are sprayed with an insecticide containing D.D.T. as a precaution against a possible reinfestation. Where the occupants are unable to vacate a house, the rooms, etc., are only sprayed as above. In these cases the use of an insecticide containing D.D.T. has been found to be quite efficient.

The Council carry out the disinfestation of verminous premises as a free service.

4. *Schools.*

No action was taken during the year.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING..

#### I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	496
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	1,854
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. .. .	1
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	216

#### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. .	234
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#### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

##### (A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners .. .. .	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. .. .	Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	45
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners .. .. .	41
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. .. .	5

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	Nil

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	4

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

Nine persons carry on the trade of distributor of milk in the district and seven premises are used as dairies. All are registered with this authority in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Four distributors hold an annual Dealer's Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to certain milk bottled by them at their respective dairies, and two distributors annual Dealer's Licences to use the designations "Tuberculin Tested" and "Pasteurised" respectively in relation to certain milks received

already bottled and retailed by them within the urban district. Three distributors of milk hold Supplementary Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk retailed in Hitchin.

Two dairies in the district hold licences granted by the County Council to pasteurise milk. One dairy pasteurises by the "High Temperature Short Time" method and the other by the "Holder" method. All the milk delivered to the two dairies, with the exception of certain Tuberculin Tested milk, is pasteurised and retailed to the public as Pasteurised. The Tuberculin Tested milk not pasteurised is bottled at the two dairies and retailed under that designation.

Numerous inspections of dairies were made during the year under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

During the year 125 samples of milk were taken and were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

No. of Samples.	Class of Milk.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Percentage Satisfactory.
59	Pasteurised	53	6	89.8%
48	Tuberculin Tested	47	1	97.9%
11	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	9	2	81.8%
7	Ungraded	6	1	85.7%

The majority of the samples were bottled milks taken in course of delivery to the consumer.

Guinea pig inoculations were carried out with 12 of the above samples to test for the presence of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus and were reported upon as follows:—

- 2 Pasteurised.—Negative.
- 9 Tuberculin Tested.—Negative.
- 1 Ungraded.—Negative.

#### (b) *Meat and Other Foods.*

The Herts. and Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory carry out extensive slaughtering of pigs under the control of the Ministry of Food and the following table gives details of the number of animals killed, inspected and found to be diseased or unsound and unfit for food. The diseased or unsound meat is voluntarily surrendered and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

The ordinary routine examination of the pigs is carried out by slaughtermen, i.e., the incision of the submaxillary glands of the head and the glands of the organs. Carcasses showing any disease or abnormalities, or affected in any degree with tuberculosis are detained along with their organs for inspection by the Meat Inspector.

This system of detention is the best that can be adopted, without appointing a full-time meat inspector, and works well in practice. One Sanitary Inspector is engaged five afternoons per week on this system of meat inspection.

#### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed ..	—	—	—	—	60,153
Number inspected ..	—	—	—	—	60,153
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	57
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	9,461
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- eases other than tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	15.82%
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	179
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	2,383
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	4.26%

The following table gives summarised information relating to the carcasses, offal, etc. condemned:—

<i>Tuberculosis.</i>						<i>lbs.</i>
2	Pork pig carcasses	..	..	..	..	148
165	Bacon pig carcasses	..	..	..	..	28,159
12	Hog carcasses	..	..	..	..	2,433
	Miscellaneous fores and collars	..	..	..	..	2,211
16	Bacon pigs' legs	..	..	..	..	320
2	Bacon pigs' sides	..	..	..	..	187
1,624	Pigs' heads and tongues	..	..	..	..	21,304
553	Pigs' plucks	..	..	..	..	3,281
912	Pigs' mesenteric fats	..	..	..	..	7,673

*Other Diseases.*

4	Pork Pig carcasses	.....	Fevered	233
5	Pork pig carcasses	.....	Moribund or Dead	370
6	Pork pig carcasses	.....	Pneumonia	203
1	Pork pig carcase	.....	Dropsical	42
1	Pork pig carcase	.....	Lympho-Sarcoma	93
3	Hog carcasses	.....	Moribund or Dead	831
1	Sow carcase	.....	Fevered	316
1	Bacon pig carcase	.....	Fevered	110
31	Bacon pig carcasses	.....	Moribund or Dead	5,124
1	Bacon pig carcase	.....	Injury	155
1	Bacon pig carcase	.....	Swine Erysipelas	154
2	Bacon pig carcasses	.....	Pyæmia	206
1	Pork pig forequarter	.....	Injury	14
4	Bacon pigs' forequarters	.....	Pleurisy	114
43	Bacon pigs' legs	.....	Injury	820
3	Hogs' legs	.....	Injury	42
1	Bacon pig's leg	.....	Abscesses	17
	Miscellaneous parts	.....	Injury	238
	Miscellaneous parts	.....	Abscesses	10
1,287	Pigs' plucks	.....	Cirrhosis, etc	7,533
301	Pigs' lungs	.....	Congestion and Pneumonia	901
4,288	Pigs' kidneys	.....	Cystic and Nephritis	1,083
4,291	Pigs' stomachs	.....	Inflammation	12,095
				<hr/>
				96,420
				<hr/>

Total: 43 tons, - cwts., 3 qrs., 16 lbs.



Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, food shops and other food preparing premises. The following quantities of food-stuffs were also found to be unsound and unfit for food, were voluntarily surrendered by the owners, and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption:—

<i>Meat from Butchers' Shops.</i>		<i>lbs.</i>
6 Part Hindquarters of Beef .....	Decomposition	300 $\frac{3}{4}$
2 Pork pigs' legs .....	Injury	15 $\frac{1}{4}$
Miscellaneous Pork Fillets .....	Decomposition	13
Miscellaneous Sweetbreads .....	Decomposition	12
		<hr/>
		34 <sup>1</sup>
		<hr/>

Total: 3 cwts., - qrs., 5lbs.

<i>General.</i>		<i>lbs.</i>
Bacon .. .. .		106
Fish .. .. .		202 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous tinned and packed foods .. .. .		1,249
Tinned Meat .. .. .		500 $\frac{1}{2}$
		<hr/>
		2,058
		<hr/>

Total: 18 cwts., 1 qr., 14 lbs.

Grand Total of Foodstuffs condemned (all classes): 98,819 lbs., or 44 tons, 2 cwts., 1 qr., 7 lbs.

*Ice Cream.*

One hundred and seventy samples of ice cream were submitted for a bacteriological examination during 1950, and after the application of a Methylene Blue Reduction test were classified as follows:—

Grade 1 .. ..	112	} Satisfactory.
Grade 2 .. ..	41	
Grade 3 .. ..	12	} Unsatisfactory
Grade 4 .. ..	5	

*Food Poisoning.*

(a) Outbreaks due to Identified Agents.

Total outbreaks	Total cases
1	5 (within the urban district).

(b) Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause.

Total outbreaks
Nil.

(c) Single Cases.

Total cases
Nil.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1950.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the  
Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. *Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).*

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	Occupiers prose- cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities .. .. .	25	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ority .. .. .	133	25	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ..	2	—	—	—
Total ..	160	25	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Reme- died	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prose- cutions were insti- tuted
			Referred to H.M. In- spectors	by H.M. In- spectors	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ..	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	—	3	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective..	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to Outwork) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	5	8	-	-	-
	==	==	==	==	==

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	Number of out workers in August list re- quired by Section 110(1)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Coun- cil	Number of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	Number of in- stances of work in un- whole- some prem- ises	No- tices served	Prose- cutions
Wearing apparel making, etc. ..	14	—	—	—	—	—

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